



History of the Virginia Resource – Use Education Council

1952 – The Director of CGIF Mr. Quinn called together representatives from the various natural resource agencies, the Dept of Public Instruction and several colleges. The first project the newly formed Council took on was the publication and distribution of the booklet ***“A Look at Virginia’s Natural Resources”*** 25,000 copies were distributed to Elementary schools statewide.

1956 – The Council began the first ***“Conservation Short Course”*** at VPI with 29 educators. The teachers spent 3 weeks learning about all aspects of natural resources. The Course was divided into small 2-3 day sessions followed by an exam. A typical session covered all aspects of a resource along with one or more field trips. A representative of a resource agency taught each topic.

The course rapidly expanded to William and Mary, Virginia State University, Longwood and several other universities. Teachers spent the 3 weeks on campus, receiving full or partial scholarships from the Council.

Due to declining enrollment and changes in the teacher re-certification process the Council decided to discontinue the course in 1993.

1964 – Governor Harrison with the VRUEC invited over 3,000 citizens to attend a conference on the future of conservation education in Virginia. 1,200 citizens met at the John Marshall Hotel here in Richmond to discuss ways to increase conservation and stewardship among Virginians.

During the 60's the Council produced two 16mm films on Virginia. These were available on loan from the Department of Education and several other agency loan libraries. The films were also shown on PBS across the Commonwealth.

1975 – The booklet ***“Virginia Natural Resources”*** was updated and sent to all the schools in Virginia. The booklet was again updated and distributed in 1999, renamed the ***“Virginia’s Natural Resources Education Guide”*** it is currently available on the Virginia Naturally web site.

1995 – The Council collaborates on an ***Environmental Education Directory*** that currently exists on the Virginia Naturally Web Site.

1998 - Council receives Litter grant and produces ***Pollution Solutions*** – holding teacher workshops statewide and training hundreds of teachers in waste management and pollution prevention and dozens of local litter and recycling coordinators in EE.

2000–VRUEC is recognized by the General Assembly to serve as staff for the newly created Virginia Naturally Environmental Education Advisory Committee. The Council is also named as the interagency work group for the recently signed Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

2002 – In an effort to assist teachers in meeting Bay educational goals, the Council partners with natural resource agencies, NOAA and the VEE to establish and administer a small classroom grant program.

2003 – Council receives a NOAA grant to offer a one-week teachers' course on the Chesapeake Bay to help teachers meet the educational goals of the Bay Agreement.

2005 – The council expands its efforts to include a headwaters course on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The 2 Bay Academies reach over 50 teachers. To assist teachers in providing a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience(MWEE) the Council award over \$50,000 in classroom grants to schools.

2006 - Survey of Virginia School Systems shows that 80% of schools are meeting their MWEE goals. Member agencies are continuing to support MWEE and other goals in the Environmental Education Business Plan.

Virginia Resource – Use Education Council Guiding Principles

- That the natural resources of the state and nation should be used wisely and with due consideration for the future.
- That the wise use of these resources should be the concern of government at the local, state, and national levels.
- That all people benefit from the natural resources of the state and nation: hence, they have citizenship responsibility in the safeguarding and judicious utilization of these resources.
- That all citizens, public or private groups, charged with the management of natural resources or education or both, have added responsibilities in promoting understanding of conservation needs problems and ways to resolve them.



Member agencies: DACS, DCR, DEQ, DGIF, DHR, DOE, DMME, DOF, VDH, CRC, VSU, LU, SNP, UVA, SMV, NRCS, EPA,VFAC, VIMS, CBF, VASWCD, MRC, VMNH, VT, LU, MBC